

V.—*On the Rediscovery of three remarkable Species of Birds of South America.* By HANS, Graf von BERLEPSCH.

(Plate II.)

1. PIPRA OPALIZANS. (Plate II.)

In the second part of his ‘Zur Ornithologie Brasiliens,’ published at the end of 1868 (pp. 128, 186–187), Herr August von Pelzeln made known a new species of *Pipra* from a MS. description of Johann Natterer, who collected a single specimen of this bird in the neighbourhood of Pará, Lower Amazons. Unfortunately this single individual was lost, and Herr von Pelzeln was obliged to form a diagnosis from Natterer’s MS. description, which, nevertheless, was very full and detailed, and now proves also to be quite correct.

In 1888 Mr. Sclater, when writing his Catalogue of the *Pipridæ* in the British Museum (vol. xiv. p. 292), remarked in a footnote that he was not acquainted with *Pipra opalizans*, Pelz., and nothing has since been published about that species.

After this, a young entomological collector, Herr Albert Schulz, of Prussia, intending to collect birds for me on the Lower Amazons, asked me for descriptions of rare birds inhabiting that country, and when leaving for Pará, besides descriptions of other birds, took with him a diagnosis of *Pipra opalizans*. The first collection I received from him was not very promising, but the second contained a specimen of *Pipra opalizans*.

Before receiving this collection, I had a letter from Mr. Schulz with a list of its contents. He had tried to name his species after the descriptions in his hands, and I found the name of *Pipra opalizans* in his list. I confess I did not believe in the correctness of this identification, and was really surprised when, on opening the box, I found a true *Pipra opalizans*, which proved to be one of the finest and most singular birds which I ever had before my eyes.

The bird obtained by Schulz is evidently a male, and is no doubt in perfect plumage. The upper parts, including



W. Hart del et lith.

PIPRA OPALIZANS.

Mintern Bros imp.

wings and tail, are dark green, becoming lighter and brighter on the rump and upper tail-coverts. The throat, upper breast, and the sides of the body, the sides of the head, and a frontal line are of a lighter or more yellowish green. The belly and under tail-coverts are clear yellow. The head above is ornamented by a plaque composed of flat metallic feathers of unsurpassed beauty. They might be classed as being like mother-of-pearl with a glittering hue of opal (which peculiarity induced Natterer to call the species *Pipra opalizans*), but at the same time may be observed a rich coruscation on it of the purest gold and silver.

It is impossible to get an idea of the brightness of the cap of *Pipra opalizans* without having seen the bird, and I think it might well be called the finest bird in existence. It may be added that on the neck the metallic feathers of the cap become lengthened and pointed to the tip, and here they are somewhat expanded, forming a sort of crest. The upper mandible is plumbeous at the base, becoming whiter on the apical portion. The under mandible is white, legs and toes flesh-coloured.

My specimen has the wings and tail in moult, and unfortunately, from an accident, has lost the tip of the upper mandible, therefore its measurements are not of much use. They are about as follows: long. tot. 95, al. 51, caud. 26, culm. about 9, tars. $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

As already pointed out by Johann Natterer, the nearest ally of *Pipra opalizans* is *P. nattereri*, Scl.; but the latter species has the cap of the head pure white, and has a white rump, which in *P. opalizans* is green like the back.

My specimen, which I believe is now the only one in existence in any public or private collection, was obtained by Mr. Albert Schulz near Ourem, on the Rio Guamá, which joins the Amazons near Pará, south-east of that city, on the 2nd February, 1894. The sex is labelled as “♀ juv. (?)” which is evidently an error, and there is a note on the back of the label that the sexual organs were undiscernible and that it was probably “♂ ad.” The iris is marked as pale yellow (“hellgelb”).

Immediately on receiving this specimen, I wrote a letter to Mr. Schulz asking him to collect more specimens of *Pipra opalizans*, for which I offered him a good price; but he did not succeed in finding it again, and unfortunately, owing to bad health, he was obliged to return to Germany in 1895.

2. IDIOP SAR BRACHYURUS.

This curious bird was described by the late Mr. Cassin, in his "Study of the *Icteridæ*" (Proc. Ac. N. Sc. Philad. 1866, p. 414), from a single specimen said to have been procured near La Paz in Bolivia by Mr. D. K. Cartter. Mr. Selater, having examined the type belonging to the U.S. National Museum at Washington, pointed out (in an article in 'The Ibis,' 1884, p. 240), quite correctly, I think, that *Idiopsar brachyurus* is not an Icterine bird but a Finch, reminding one of *Phrygilus unicolor* by its style of coloration, but possessing quite an extraordinary bill for a Finch.

Now I have great pleasure to announce that my collector, Herr Gustav Garlepp, with the aid of a copy of the figure in 'The Ibis' for 1884, and having received special instructions from me to make every effort to find this bird, after having vainly searched for it in the neighbourhood of La Paz, was at last so fortunate as to discover it at Iquico on the Illimani (4000 metres) in February 1895, and to find it again near Rinconada, on the road over the Andes, also east of La Paz at the same altitude (4000 metres), in September 1896.

Altogether, Mr. Garlepp has sent me twelve specimens, including adults of both sexes and a young bird, all of them being nearly alike in coloration.

It may not be out of place to give here an abstract of Garlepp's letter relating to this important discovery, translated from the German original:—

" Iquico, 26th February, 1895.

"After some delay, caused by our illness, and after a riding journey of two days (from La Paz), we at last

arrived here, which is a hacienda situated on the north-eastern slope of the majestic Illimani. This was on the 14th of January. During the first eight or ten days my brother and I made some excursions up and down hill to reconnoitre the ground. The time was not good for collecting birds, most of them being moulting. Nevertheless, of *Aglaactis pamela*, which was very common, we collected a large number, and I was very much pleased to find, at a great altitude near the line of eternal snow in company with other Ground-Finches (such as *Spodiornis jelskii*, *Diuca speculifera*, etc.), the much sought-after *Idiopsar brachyurus*. I have, so far, shot only five specimens, and cannot yet say much about this curious bird. In these high regions, where it rains, hails, or snows twenty hours of the day, the vegetation is very scanty, and consists only of gramineous plants, and such herbs as can grow between the débris of rocks and blocks of stone. In such situations this bird searches after insects, and is sometimes to be seen sitting on the stones holding its long beak upward, which is a curious sight. The people of this country know the bird well, and call it 'Agusanieve,' which means that it searches after insects under the snow. I was told that in heavy snowfalls these birds cannot fly and are easily taken by hand."

In a later letter Mr. Garlepp says that he found the *Idiopsar* at different places on the Cordillera at the altitude of 14,000 feet, and that he now thinks it feeds exclusively on seeds. He also says that males and females are quite alike, and that he had prepared skeletons of two moulting specimens.

As already said, I fully agree with Mr. Sclater that *Idiopsar* is not an Icterine bird, but a true Fringilline, perhaps most nearly related to *Phrygilus* or *Diuca*. It truly looks like *Phrygilus unicolor* with a much exaggerated and deformed bill.

The males and females, as sexed by Garlepp, do not show any difference either in coloration or form; it only appears that the older specimens have longer bills, which are more

	Long. tot.	Al.	Caud.	Culm.	Tars.
1. (4. Harlepp legit no. 990. "♂ s!" (ad.). Iquico, 23 I. 1895. "Iris rotbraun"	mm. " 175 "	mm. 104½	mm. 70	mm. 21½	mm. 27
2. " " " 992. "♀ s!" (ad.). " " 23 I. 1895. " "	" 180 "	101	68½	20½	25½
3. " " " 993. "♂ s!" (ad.). " " 23 I. 1895. " "	" 170 "	99	69½	19¾	26½
4. " " " 994. "♂ s!" (ad.). " " 23 I. 1895. " "	" 180 "	104½	73	20½	26
5. " " " 1050. "♀ s" (ad.). " " 1 III. 1895. " "	" 180 "	104½	75½	20½	26½
6. " " " 1512. "♀" (av. jr.). Rinconada, 28 II. 1896. "Iris gelbbraun" .....	....	161	71	19¾	26½
7. " " " 1515. "♂ s" (ad.). " " 2 VII. 1896.....	" 175 "	101	72	21¾	25
8. " " " 1645. "♂ s" (ad.). " " 6 IX. 1896. "Iris gelbbraun" .....	....	105	75½	20¼	26
9. " " " 1646. "♀ s?" (ad.). " " 6 IX. 1896. " " ..	....	100½	69¾	21	26
10. " " " 1647. "♂ s" (ad.). " " 6 IX. 1896. " " ..	....	97½	68	21½	26
11. " " " 1648. "♀ s?" (ad.). " " 6 IX. 1896. " " ..	....	105½	73	22¾	26¼
12. " " " 1650. "♂ s" (ad.). " " 6 IX. 1896. " " ..	....	103	72½	22½	26¾

compressed in the apical half, while younger specimens have the bill much shorter and comparatively thicker or more swollen, with the culmen more rounded. The latter also have the plumage more or less soiled with brownish, while the adults are of a clearer slate or plumbeous grey above and of a purer ashy beneath; but on the whole the difference is only slight.

It must be remembered that in all the allied Fringilline forms (such as *Phrygilus*, *Spodiornis*, and *Haplospiza*) the females differ widely from the males in their coloration, while in *Diuca* the difference between the sexes is but slight.

It cannot be said that the figure in 'The Ibis' is very correct, the bird there looking not at all like a Ground-Finch, which he really is; but, at all events, this figure aided Mr. Garlepp to find the bird in a totally different situation (on the ground), and I think this energetic traveller is much to be congratulated upon the rediscovery of one of the most singular South-American types, as Mr. Selater has called it.

I give measurements (p. 64) of the twelve specimens now before me.

3. CHRYSOLAMPIS CHLOROLEMUS.

Lampornis calosoma, Elliot (1872).

In his Catalogue of the Trochilidæ of the British Museum (vol. xvi. p. 96), Mr. Osbert Salvin made a remark that "Graf H. v. Berlepsch has a specimen of this bird (viz. *Lampornis calosoma*) received direct from Bahia." This is the case, whereas Mr. Elliot, when describing the species, believed it to be from somewhere in the West Indies.

Perhaps some of my brother ornithologists may take an interest in the story of how I got my bird. Some years ago (in 1888) I was told that a merchant in a village called "Veckerhagen," on the Weser, was anxious to dispose of a small lot of bird-skins which he had received from his son, who then was a clerk in a business at Bahia. I asked him to send me the lot, and found it contained bird-skins of bright colours of the usual Bahia make, viz. trade-skins

prepared for millinery purposes. There were some fifty *Rhamphocelus brasilius*, a number of *Galbula rufoviridis*, *Pipra erythrocephala*, &c., and a few Humming-birds, such as *Lampornis nigricollis*, *Petasophora serrirostris*, *Agyrtria leucogastra*, and a splendid specimen of *Chrysolampis chlorolæmus*. The skin of this bird is quite of the same make as that of the others: viz., high breast, flat throat, tail-feathers spread out like a fan, and a slip of paper round the body.

The young man who sent the birds from Bahia afterwards returned to Germany, and I spoke with him. He told me that he got all the skins from a dealer at Bahia, who used to prepare skins for millinery purposes. Consequently there cannot be the slightest doubt that *Chrysolampis chlorolæmus* is really an inhabitant of the province of Bahia in Brazil.

My specimen, which is evidently an old male in perfect plumage, measures: al. $60\frac{1}{2}$, caud. 36, culm. $18\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

I think that the correct name for this species is *Chrysolampis chlorolæmus* (Elliot).

Regarding the generic name, I may remark that the silvery-greenish glittering head and neck, and the rufous middle tail-feathers, as well as the produced feathering from the front along the base of the upper mandible, are characters which associate it with *Chrysolampis*, while the longer bill and the serrated maxilla (as Salvin remarks) speak rather for *Lampornis*. It is in fact somewhat intermediate between *Chrysolampis* and *Lampornis*, but to my mind the characters of *Chrysolampis* prevail in it against those of *Lampornis*.

About the specific name, I think there can be no doubt that *chlorolæmus* of Mr. Elliot is the oldest. The name *calosoma*, proposed by Mr. Elliot two years later, must become a synonym. It is true that there was already an *Eulampis chlorolæmus*, Gld., which by Cabanis and Heine was placed with *Lampornis*, but this fact does not justify us in withdrawing the specific name of *chlorolæmus* from our bird. Even if placed again in the genus *Lampornis*, this species ought to stand as *Lampornis chlorolæma* (Elliot).

So far as I know, the original specimen in the American

Museum of New York, that in the British Museum (ex coll. Salvin and Godman), and my own are the only representatives of this rare Humming-bird in our collections of natural history.

VI.—Notes on some Specimens of Anatidæ in the late Count Ninni's Collection. By Prof. ETTORE ARRIGONI DEGLI ODDI.

THE much-lamented Count Alexander P. Ninni, a name dear to naturalists of every country, left his rich collections of natural history to the city of Venice, where they were consigned to the Correr Museum. The most remarkable part of them is the series of birds, which consists of about one thousand specimens, illustrative of the avifauna of the province of Venice. But several rare specimens have most unfortunately been lost through the carelessness of those to whom they were entrusted. Among these are an example of *Ædemia nigra*, of which only the head is left, and an example of a cross between *Anas boschas* and *Chaulelasmus streperus* destroyed by moths. In fact it is owing to the indefatigable activity and intelligence of my friend Prof. Joseph Scarpa, appointed by the city of Venice to put the collections into order, that they have escaped further loss.

The greater number of the specimens in this collection are unfortunately without date and locality. It is, however, certain that they were all obtained in the Venetian estuary and the adjoining seas within the last few years. Count Ninni had many correspondents who brought him everything interesting they met with, among whom I may mention Giovanni Minotto, a preparator and punt-gunner. Although not gifted with knowledge acquired from books, Minotto is endowed with great natural ability, and was a coadjutor of Count Ninni's of no little importance, and since the latter's death he has been very useful to me in collecting and mounting birds for my museum.

The Anatidæ, consisting of about one hundred specimens, are the most largely represented family in the collection, and